Darby Vassal Upper School
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REVISED SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

By the order of the Co-Chairs of the Darby Vassal Upper School, there will be a meeting of the Darby Vassal Upper School School Council on 04/30/2025 at 07:00 PM at Cambridge Public Library (Rindge Room) for the purpose of: School Council Elections:
School Council is approaching the end of year 1. New elections are coming up.
Get people to actually vote during the School Concert.
Voting needs to be open for 2 weeks.
Squish 2 weeks of raising awareness & 2 weeks of nominations together to 3-3 Â½ weeks for a more feasible timeline. (Jess)
Everything needs to be done by June 18th because that is our last School Council meeting.
May 15, butterfly trip for SEI kids - might be a good time to recruit parents.
We want to open voting on May 29th for Orchestra Concert.
How do we get staff to participate in School Council meetings?
Switch to an alternate schedule (sometimes mornings/sometimes evenings).
Our next meeting is May 28th, day before elections open.
Reach out to 6th grade and especially to rising 6th grade families (5th grade families).
Would it be motivational to add language around new building?
Chatter feedback loop is helpful, but we currently donâ€™t have enough of that.
We need input on policy like we had when we started our cell phone policy - COLLABORATIVE WORK
Are there issues we can work on as a council proactively?
Specificity â€” not necessarily having an agenda - but introducing a topic that people can discuss and work on collaboratively, for example as follows:
discipline
homework
refining language in student handbook
Council goes to the community - meet with other parents to brainstorm, listen, and see what familiesâ€™ concerns are, what can we work on.
How do we draft this message to make it appealing for families to come to school council meetings? (Oksana)
Locus of control - what families and schools can work on together. Our locus of control is the things we do differently from other schools. District decisions are not within our control.
We want the factors unique to us to be informed by and supported by our community (Jess)

logistical issues -
we have no reminders for meeting
we have no shared notes
we should have a newsletter
School council is a part of family engagement.
functions as an advisory group (worst version)
for people interested in school policy - not every family is that wonky
school council is only one prong of engagement. Thereâ€™s no one way to be engaged.
We do a better job of selling this if people are already interested in school governance and policy.
series of family events & community events - family-to-family

Action items:
BY JULY 1 - list of topics for the school council for the upcoming school year
consider more mechanisms for getting more feedback & engagement
video to share with families by Friday (Daniel has done this task)
Reach out to Friends of & School Council (Carroll & Jess)

Attendees may sign up to attend the meeting by visiting the CPS School Council Meeting System at https://portal.cpsd.us/school_council.

Daniel Coplon-Newfield

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